

LIVING ROOM CONCERTS

October 15th, 2018

Dear 5th Grade Band Parents,

In years past, 5th and 6th grade band students were expected to fill out practice logs each week, showing how much they practiced each day. For the past couple of years, I tried something different, and based on parent and student feedback, it has been a big success. At the beginning of each week, your child will be receiving a “Living Room Concert” assignment. The assignment will always be due during your child’s first band class of the following week. For each Living Room Concert, your child will be assigned a song to practice for the week, and then they will perform that song at home for you after they have practiced it. You will then fill out a sheet where you rate specific components of their performance and provide your signature. You do not need any knowledge of music to do this – simply fill out the sheet to the best of your ability. Your child will not be graded whatsoever on what you gave them as a rating, so please be truthful. My focus is that they are practicing at home, and that they are performing for you. The rating will simply tell me what they may be struggling with, and will show me what we need to work more on in class. You may also provide a comment at the bottom of the sheet if you wish, which could be about their performance, or a note to me with a question or concern.

A new Living Room Concert will be assigned every week, starting this past week. I will always upload copies of each Living Room Concert to our Galvin Bands website and to your child’s Google Classroom page, so if your child ever loses their Living Room Concert sheet, you can print another copy from those two places. The grading is simple – if your child passes it in on time, they get full credit (100). If they pass it in late, they will receive five points off (95). I will accept late Living Room Concerts until the end of each quarter. If you ever want to know which assignments your child has passed in to me and which they are missing, you can look on iParent. I will try to update their grades every week.

I expect that your child will practice for at least 5 minutes every day at home. Practicing may include working on the songs I assign in class, or simply playing their instrument for fun. My hope is that the Living Room Concerts will be a fun way to motivate students to practice at home, and to show you what they are learning. The performance and rating should only take a few minutes of your time each week. If you have any questions or concerns about these assignments, please feel free to contact me!

Warm Regards,
Jenna DiMento
5th and 6th Grade Band Director
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Galvin Bands Website: www.galvinbands.com